

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~TECHNICAL FIELD~~

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION**a. Field of Invention --**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION~~

b. Description of Related Art --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- ~~SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION~~

SUMMARY OF INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

-- This object is achieved by a system and method having the features of the independent claims, particularly Specifically, as shown in Fig. 2, the aforementioned objects are achieved by a system for specifying the position of a sensor 14 of a digital X-ray apparatus, which system exhibits input and output devices 8 for interactive control of the system. These devices preferably comprise a graphics system on which digitized X-ray photographs and X-ray images can be shown and keyboards and pointing devices. The system has a first storage area 9, in which a digital image of an area to be examined is stored. In this case the image is ideally an individual general image in the form of a panoramic radiogram of the patient to be examined. If

no such image should be present, the system offers a selection of patterns, from which that can be selected which matches the patient best. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In a second storage area 10, which may physically coincide with the first storage area, there are stored as many template images of the sensors as there are sensors or possible arrangements of sensors. The templates are displayed such that they comply with the shape and size of the image of the relevant sensor. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

-- Another component of the system is a processing unit 11 which places the template image of at least one sensor simulatively on the area of the digital image which is to be examined such that in the case of a real X-ray image the region to be examined is imaged completely. Said processing unit is preferably a known processor. The processor can either carry out fully automatic determination, in which case a previously specified area is covered, as a result of matching computation based on the shape and coordinates of the templates, so well that a minimum amount of radiation is necessary. Optimization is effected in observance of the criterion that the overlap should be as small as possible, for by this means the patient is exposed only to that radiation dosage which is just necessary. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The system has in its preferred form a user interface 16 enabling interactive selection of the template image and/or the area to be examined. This makes it possible for the user to be interactively engaged in the specifying procedure. One possible user interface is a graphical interface of a computer on which the image is displayed. Selection boxes make it possible to

select different templates, which can then be moved to the area to be examined by means of a pointing device, such as a mouse. The area to be examined must be specified for fully automatic determination. This can likewise take place by specifying points with the aid of a pointing device. In the case of completely manual selection, the digital template is passed over the area, which is then preferably displayed in a different color. It is particularly advantageous when only those objects forming part of the image which are to be examined are made particularly distinguishable, ie, for example, when only the teeth are high-lighted. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

-- By way of a computer interface 12 to the X-ray apparatus the thus determined presettings are transferred to the X-ray apparatus, which permits the production of a digital image only when these presettings prevail. Thus the X-ray apparatus can block X-raying until the correct sensor has been selected. This information can be provided by coding the sensors and using corresponding contacts in the sensor mount. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

-- To remove the necessity of having to work with templates only, the system has a computer interface 13 via which digital images of the patient to be X-rayed are transferred to the first storage area. This ensures that very precise presettings will be used and the selection will be matched to anatomic peculiarities. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The template is preferably designed such that it can be moved across an X-ray image without restricting the visible area of the image. This may be effected, for example, by the use of a frame and/or transparent material 15. --

Please add the following paragraphs on page 5, after line 2 as follows:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention and together with the detail description serve to explain the principles of the invention. In the drawings:

Fig. 1 illustrates a selection area in which a number of sensor templates are ready for selection; and

Fig. 2 illustrates the various components for a system according to the present invention for determining and/or positioning a digital sensor of a dental X-ray apparatus. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE IMAGE**

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

-- If it should be necessary to introduce a holder for the sensor into the oral cavity, a suitable selection can be indicated by an appropriate color of a frame 7, having cable routing 7', surrounding a sensor 2. Other indicating means can be used for this purpose, if desired. --